



Over 100 Philadelphia organizations have united around a high-impact, feasible set of recommendations to create healthy, sustainable neighborhoods for the third time since 2007. To be truly great, Philadelphia needs a new Mayor who will lead Philadelphia forward with Next Great City 2015's six key initiatives and get us to the finish line on key initiatives already underway.



### Repair Substandard Housing Conditions that Make Philadelphians Sick

**ISSUE** Aging and deteriorated houses are making their occupants sick, particularly residents with chronic conditions like asthma.

**ACTION** Prioritize repair and improvement of existing affordable housing in policy and practice. Expand city pilot that removed asthma triggers in the home and improved children's health and school attendance dramatically within 6 months.

**BENEFITS** Lowers illness exacerbated by housing conditions; preserves affordable housing we can't afford to rebuild; reduces school and work absenteeism; lowers displacement of homeowners; decreases energy use; and lowers health costs.



### Create Clean, Litter-Free Streets, Parks and Rivers

**ISSUE** Filthadelphia says it all. We have too much litter on our streets and polluting our parks and rivers.

**ACTION** Improve regulation, charge for single use plastic and paper bags, and implement a street cleaning program.

**BENEFITS** Removes blight and unattractive trash; increases neighborhood and riverfront attractiveness; decreases crime; improves water quality; encourages neighborhood investments; and saves millions of dollars.



### Protect Vulnerable Residents and Infrastructure in Extreme Weather

**ISSUE** Extreme storms endanger residents and core infrastructure from hospitals to the electrical power grid

**ACTION** Create an extreme emergency response plan for residents, establish a flood task force and make storm vulnerabilities a required factor in infrastructure and new development decision-making.

**BENEFITS** Protects vulnerable residents in dangerous situations; preserves key infrastructure; protects water quality and improves city's resilience and sustainability.



### Strengthen Small Business Climate

**ISSUE** Neighborhood businesses are not growing as they should and feel burdened, rather than helped, by city government.

**ACTION** Lower license and tax obstacles, offer gap financing, integrate non-profit supports and improve inspection process.

**BENEFITS** Creates jobs; restores commercial corridor vitality; eliminates unnecessary trips to city hall; and fosters start-ups and long-term business viability.



### Connect Neighborhoods to our Trail and Bicycle Network

**ISSUE** Many neighborhood residents do not have safe, convenient access to the city's trail and bike lane network.

**ACTION** Improve connections to and between trails and bike lanes, create uniform signage, and extend Bikeshare to neighborhoods.

**BENEFITS** Creates neighborhood assets; provides safe, equitable access to a city asset; reduces traffic and traffic-related injuries and fatalities; increases mobility; lowers obesity; improves air quality; attracts tourism; and improves mobility of residents without a car.



### Provide Free Drinking Water and Nutritious Food to Students

**ISSUE** Many Philadelphia students do not have easy access to drinking water or nutritious, appealing meals during the school day.

**ACTION** Offer modern water stations near cafeterias and throughout the school, incubate local business to provide appealing nutritious pre-plated lunches, and create school gardens.

**BENEFITS** Improves childhood nutrition; raises student performance due to better hydration and nutrition; improves student behavior; lowers obesity; teaches healthy food eating habits; improves fresh food access; and enhances local economy.

For more, visit [nextgreatcity.org](http://nextgreatcity.org)

These six recommendations will help to ensure that every Philadelphia neighborhood is healthy, clean and safe and served by an effective city government.

The Next Great City has jointly created and implemented two ambitious agendas for the City. All 15 of our past recommendations are in progress.

## ABOUT NEXT GREAT CITY

The Next Great City coalition is made up of over 100 civic associations, labor unions, businesses, public health organization, environmental nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and social service groups. Together, we are dedicated to creating a positive future for Philadelphia by advocating for common sense cost-effective policies that enhance environmental quality, strengthen neighborhoods, and increase our economic competitiveness.

To view the entire 2015 Next Great City agenda, visit: [nextgreatcity.org](http://nextgreatcity.org)

For more information or to join the coalition, please contact [Bartolotta@pennfuture.org](mailto:Bartolotta@pennfuture.org)



### 2007 Recommendations



ADOPT  
MODERN  
ZONING



MAINTAIN  
HEALTHY  
PARKS



REPLANT  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
TREES



IMPROVE  
TRANSIT  
STOPS



STOP SEWER  
BACKUPS  
& FLOODING



REDUCE ASTHMA  
FROM DIRTY TRUCK  
EXHAUST



CREATE  
PUBLIC  
WATERFRONTS



5% CLEAN,  
LOCAL  
ENERGY USE



CLEAN AND  
GREEN  
VACANT LOTS



EXPAND AND  
IMPROVE  
RECYCLING

### 2011 Recommendations



SELL OR TRANSFER  
PUBLICLY-OWNED  
VACANT LOTS



MAKE STREETS  
SAFE FOR WALKING  
AND BIKING



REUSE & RECYCLE  
CONSTRUCTION &  
FOOD WASTE



DISCLOSE ENERGY  
COSTS TO PROPERTY  
BUYERS



IMPROVE ACCESS  
TO FRESH, LOCAL  
FOOD